

place and be a part of it. I want to be a catalyst.

- I'm very familiar with town because of my time on the Planning Commission. I know town codes and how the town operates.
- When voting in Planning Commission, it's important

to remove my emotions and just look at codes in place and the requirements.

- In my leadership experience, I met employees and got to know them, and focused on accountability and integrity.

- We need to consider why someone would come to Monument to shop. Small town feel. Outdoors feel. It's not a truck stop; it's a beautiful town. Great family place.
- I stay in my ZIP code for shopping and other services.
- One idea to solicit new businesses would be to make Monument a destination for organic groceries and promoting health.

Trustees Becki Tooley, John Howe, and Kelly Elliott expressed concern that it might be too soon to take a vote if there were more candidates who had not been heard from. The town had a 60-day window in which to fill the position, and the advertised ending date for applications was Jan. 29. A motion to vote on the trustee appointment at this meeting was approved 4-2, with Elliott and Howe voting no. Attorney Gary Shupp said there was no legal reason to go into executive session, so instead the meeting recessed for five minutes for the trustees to have time to consult their notes.

After the recess, trustees voted in a secret ballot to choose the new trustee; the vote was 4 for Smith and 2 for Wood. Sirochman said Smith would be sworn in at the Jan. 5 meeting. Trustee Jeff Bornstein said it was hard to make a choice between the two qualified candidates, adding, "This reinforces the quality of people we have in Monument. You are both A-plus!"

Officer sworn in

Lt. Steve Burk swore in new Monument Police Officer Darion Ives. He said Ives comes from a long line of law enforcement in his family: two cousins, a great-uncle (who was killed in the line of duty working for the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD), and his stepfather worked for the Monument Police Department.

Burk said that for Monument to be able to hire three new police officers this year, of whom Ives is the second to be sworn in, it is comparable to CSPD hiring 180 new officers.

Public comments

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) Chief Chris Truty thanked Monument for letting TLMFPD house its administrative offices in the town's building at 166 Second St. for the last five or six years. "It's been a great partnership," he said. TLMFPD will have its board meetings at Monument Town Hall starting in January 2015 and planned to move its administrative offices to a new leased location then also.

Monument resident and Palmer Lake business owner Jeff Hulsmann spoke to the trustees about the virtues of having a "full" Palmer Lake and about his concerns on how much Monument taxpayer money was being spent on litigation instead of negotiation regarding the current "water change issue." Due to the ongoing litigation, the trustees could not comment. See www.ocn.me/v14n12.htm#mbot1117.

Business owner Maggie Williamson said that the Historic Monument Merchants Association (HMMA) was collecting funds and printed fliers about Palmer Lake's water issue.

Mayor Rafael Dominguez congratulated Hulsmann and the Awake Palmer Lake group on being awarded a \$349,893 Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant for a park around Palmer Lake.

Background: Awake Palmer Lake's December press release said that the GOCO grant money would be invested in improvements around the lake. Planned improvements include a pedestrian bridge to provide safe passage over the railroad tracks, improvements to the playground, a bandstand, and possibly a soccer field. The GOCO grant money cannot be used to fill Palmer Lake with water, however.

Thanks to Thanksgiving contributors

Community Relations Specialist Madeline VanDenHoek expressed her appreciation to many local businesses, organizations, and individuals whose contributions make the Community Coming Together Thanksgiving a reality. They included: Rosie's Diner, Health Advocacy Partnership, Texas Roadhouse, Tri-Lakes Women's Club, MoZaic, Village Inn, Monument Academy, JJ Tracks, Monument Motors, and the Town of Monument. Trustee John Howe said 141 meals were served that day.

Financial reports

Town Manager Pamela Smith presented November's disbursements over \$5,000, which were all within budget and approved unanimously by the trustees:

- Triview Metro District, \$135,519 – sales tax, motor vehicle tax, and regional building sales tax
- Forsgren Associates, \$9,452 – waterline looping
- Lytle Water Solutions, \$8,110 – water project engi-

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